IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A process for clearing modes of operation on a ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator with the following steps:

reading data that specify a number of different available modes of operation ~~on~~ of the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator into an external electronic, optical or magnetic storage medium, said data being encoded as a code in said storage medium;

reading and encoding the data by a writing and reading unit associated with the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator; and

determining the clearing of the available modes of operation on the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator based on the data read by the writing and reading unit.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Original) A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the data read into the storage medium specify a time period during which a mode of operation is available for a particular mode of operation.

4.   (Original) A process in accordance with claim 3, wherein the time period specified is present in the storage medium as a time log for each available mode of operation, from which time log time units during which the clearing of the mode of operation in question is performed can be debited.

5. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 4, wherein a time log kept in the storage medium is filled up by an external writing unit.

6. (Currently Amended) A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the storage medium element is used for a previously selected class of ~~medical engineering devices~~ respirators of the same model or type as the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator.

7. (Currently Amended) A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the data being stored in the storage medium can be transferred by the writing and reading unit into a memory of the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator.

8. (Currently Amended) A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein data being stored in the memory of the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator can be transferred by the writing and reading unit to the storage medium element.

9. (Currently Amended) A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the storage medium ~~element~~ is a chip card ~~the~~ external to the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator.

10. (Currently Amended) A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the medical engineering device is a respirator and~~ the modes of operation are modes of respiration.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for clearing modes of operation on a ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator ~~with,~~ the ~~following~~ process comprising the steps of:

providing ~~a medical engineering device~~ the respirator with a data storage medium element connection;

providing a separate data storage medium element, the storage medium element being any one of an electronic, optical or magnetic storage medium;

~~connecting~~ selectively connecting and disconnecting the separate data storage medium element to and from the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator;

~~reading~~ encoding data into a code that ~~specify~~ specifies a number of different available modes of operation ~~on~~ of the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator;

writing the code into the data storage medium element when the data storage element is disconnected from the respirator, the data also determining the clearing of the available modes of operation on the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator;

reading and decoding the ~~data~~ code from the data storage medium element by a writing and reading unit associated with the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator, when the data storage element is connected to the respirator; and

clearing the available modes of operation on the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator based on the reading and decoding of the data from the data storage medium element.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator system, comprising:

a ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator with a separate data storage medium element

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connection;

a separate data storage medium element <u>external to said respirator</u>, the storage medium

being any one of <u>an</u> electronic, optical or magnetic storage medium connectable to the ~~medical~~

~~engineering device~~ <u>respirator</u>, the storage medium element having data <u>encoded into a code</u>

that ~~specify~~ <u>specifies</u> a number of different available modes of operation on the ~~medical~~

~~engineering device~~ <u>respirator</u>, the data <u>and code</u> also determining the clearing of the available

modes of operation on the ~~medical engineering device~~ <u>respirator</u>;

a <u>selective</u> connection between the data storage medium element and the ~~medical~~

~~engineering device~~ <u>respirator, said data storage medium element being repetatively connectable</u>

<u>to and disconnectable from the respirator by said selective connection</u>;

a ~~reading the data from the data storage medium element by a~~ writing and reading unit

associated with the ~~medical engineering device~~ <u>respirator reading and decoding the code from</u>

<u>the data storage medium element</u>; and

~~medical engineering device~~ <u>a respirator</u> processor clearing the available modes of

operation on the ~~medical engineering device~~ <u>respirator</u> based on the reading <u>and decoding</u> of

the data from the data storage medium element.

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Original) A system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the data read into the

storage medium specify a time period during which a mode of operation is available for a

particular mode of operation.

15. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 14, wherein the time period specified is present in the storage medium as a time log for each available mode of operation, from which time log time units during which the clearing of the mode of operation in question is performed can be debited.

16. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 15, wherein a time log kept in the storage medium is filled up by an external writing unit.

17. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the storage medium element is used for a previously selected class of ~~medical engineering devices~~ respirators of the same model or type as the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator.

18. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the data being stored in the storage medium can be transferred by the writing and reading unit into a memory of the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator.

19. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 12, wherein data being stored in the memory of the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator can be transferred by the writing and reading unit to the storage medium element.

20. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the storage medium element is a chip card the external to the ~~medical engineering device~~ respirator ~~and the medical engineering device is a respirator~~ and the modes of operation are modes of respiration.